

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1 - 15 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated August 27, 2004, the drawings stand objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). First and second Replacement Sheets are submitted with this Amendment. The first Replacement Sheet, in Figure 6, replaces the reference numeral 42 with the reference numeral 42a and the second Replacement Sheet, in Figures 8 and 9, adds the reference letters "d" and "D" to address the Examiner's objections. It is submitted that the Replacement Sheets overcome the objection.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Aucktor et al. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the inner joint member includes a longitudinal axis and that each helical groove is disposed in mirrored rotational relation with a corresponding helical groove disposed on an opposite side of the longitudinal axis. Such an arrangement is neither shown nor suggested in Aucktor et al. It is therefore submitted that claim 1, as amended distinguishes applicants' invention patentably over Aucktor et al. and should be allowed.

Claim 12 has been amended in such a manner as to distinguish applicants' invention patentably over Aucktor et al. in view of Schwarzler. As amended claim 12 recites a plurality of longitudinal grooves and a plurality of helical grooves and, as in claim 1 above, wherein the helical grooves are arranged opposite one another along a longitudinal axis of the inner joint member. Neither Aucktor nor Schwarzler alone or in combination teaches or suggests such a joint assembly and it is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 12 distinguishes applicants' invention patentably over the cited art and should be allowed.

The remaining claims depend ultimately on either claim 1 or 12 and are believed allowable for the same reasons as their parent claims.

It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested. If additional fees are incurred because of this Amendment and not included, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said additional fees, as well as credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 08-2789 of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS



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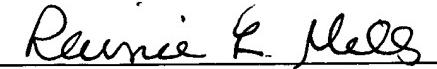
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